Oriented Fuelwood, Fodder Projects Scheme, and Conservation and Development of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants Scheme. Similar activities are also taken up under the schemes operated by the Ministry of Rural Development. These are: Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme and Integrated Wastelands Development Projects Scheme.

Disposal of Solid Wastes

945. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that quality of ground water and soil is being contaminated badly on account of present day methods of disposal of solid waste by land filling;

(b) whether Government have cealuated the environmental COSte and social costs caused by land filling; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to stop further land filling arrangements and adopt and environment-friendly agres being used in developed countries for permanent disposal of waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To assess the status of municipal solid waste generation, collection, treatment and disposal, a study has been conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board covering 23 metro cities of the country. Studies on Management of Municipal Solid Waste in Class 1 and Class 2 cities and assessment of impact of pollution arising out of present day land filling has indicated threat of pollution to ground water and soil. A recent study conducted in Andhra Pradesh has assessed health impacts and costs arising from contamination of ground water due to run off from municipal solid waste landfills.

(c) A preliminary notification entitled, "Municipal Solid Waste" (Management and Handling) Rules, 1999 calling for objections and

suggestions was notified on 27th September, 1999. The notification inter alia lays down the procedure and criteria for management of municipal solid waste, specifications for landfill site, site selection criteria and standards for disposal of treated leachates. A time schedule for implementation has also been specified.

Anti-Rabies Vaccine

946. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come across reports that a new anti-rabies vaccine has been developed by the NDDB;

(b) whether NDDB has submitted relevant information to Government for clearance and standardisation;

(c) to what extent this new vaccine would be made accessible to large number of poor people who are affected and need anti-rabies vaccine; and

(d) the details of steps proposed by Government to utilise the new indigenously developed anti-rabies vaccine in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The Human Biological Institute, Udhagamandalam, under the control of NDDS has developed a new Anti-rabies (Tissue Culture) Vaccine under the trade name ABHAYRAB.

(b) Proposal received from NDDB was processed as per the Statutory Rules by the Directorate General of Health Services. After successful standardisation and laboratory testing, the permission was awarded to the firm on 6.8.1998. Also NDDB has developed a liquid Rabies Vaccine (Gel absorbed), which is presently undergoing clinical studies in the country.

(c) and (d) NDDB is setting up 1000 vaccination clinics all over the country which will provide ABHAYRAB vaccine at a cost which is about 30% less than the case of presently available vaccines. 455 such clinics have already been established.